



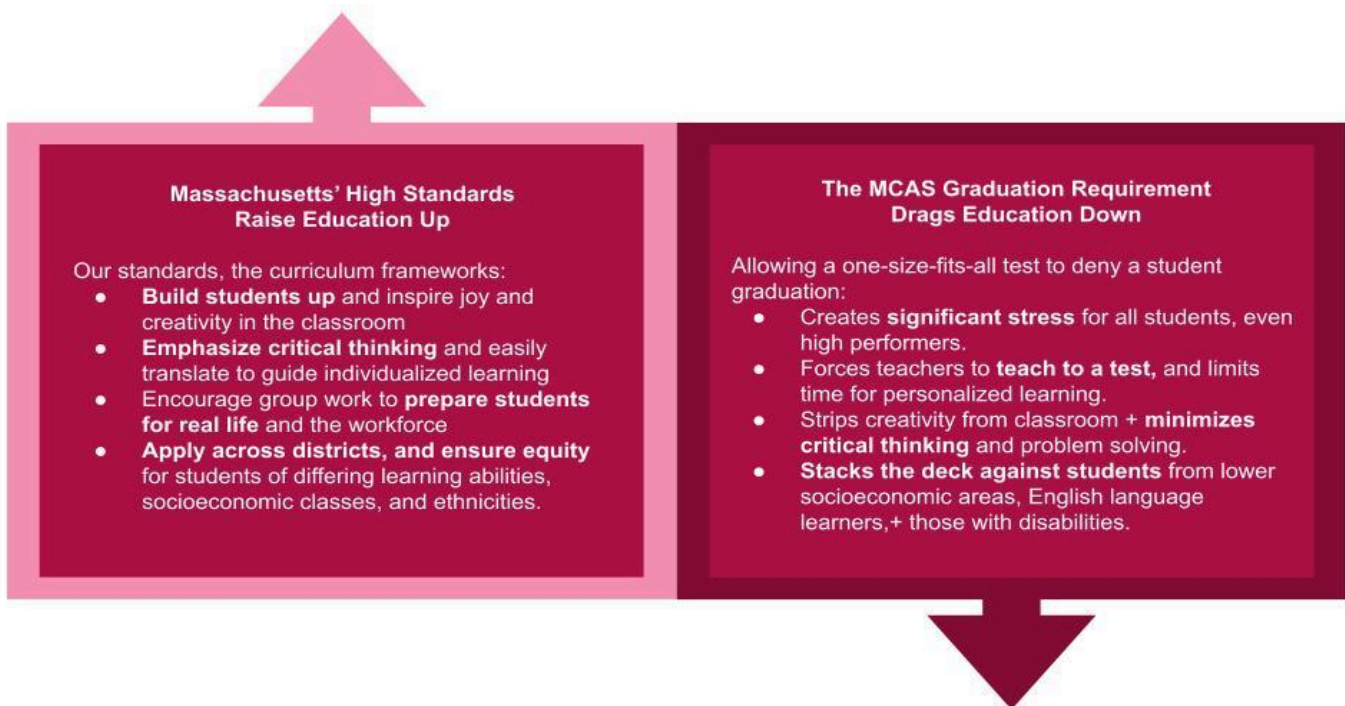
Question 2, Explained: Standards vs Assessments

Policy is complex, especially when we're talking about highly detailed topics like education. In the case of Ballot Question #2, confusion almost always comes down to understanding the difference between educational standards and student assessments.

But the two are well defined:

- **Standards** are the curriculum frameworks and suggested activities for learning that guide every educator, school, and district in teaching and course requirements. They lay out what students statewide should know and be able to do at the end of each grade.
- **Assessments** are the methods by which students demonstrate their learning and knowledge to show they are meeting the state's high standards. These come in many different forms – rubrics, projects, quizzes, tests, presentations, group work, standardized tests (such as MCAS, AP, SAT). Student report cards and GPA reflect the collection of teacher and district assessments to give a picture of student learning throughout the school year.

In reality, Massachusetts' educational standards are completely separate from the MCAS graduation requirement and will remain unchanged by the outcome of Question 2.



OUR VIEW: The MCAS graduation requirement gives too much power to a standardized test that cannot fully measure a student's likelihood of success after graduation. Removing the MCAS graduation requirement will create a balanced approach to accountability that allows coursework, grades and teacher feedback to determine graduation, alongside the federally-mandated standardized test scores.

Vote Yes on Question 2 to return the focus to teaching to high standards, not a high-stakes test.